

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

---

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: June 23, 2007

Contact: Seth Effron  
Phone: 919/733-5612

---

**GOV. EASLEY REMINDS VICTIMS OF ERNESTO TO APPLY FOR BUSINESS LOANS**  
*Deadline for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Applications is Monday*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today reminded businesses who suffered losses from Tropical Storm Ernesto last August that Monday, June 25 is the deadline to apply for low interest government loans to cover their economic losses. At Easley's request last fall, the Small Business Administration (SBA) declared nine counties eligible to receive disaster recovery financial assistance.

"Small businesses are important to the economy of North Carolina and if they are still struggling from losses suffered during Ernesto, help is available," said Easley.

The SBA disaster declaration was approved for residents and business owners in Duplin and Jones counties and the contiguous counties of Carteret, Craven, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender, Sampson and Wayne. The application period for loans to repair physical damage to homes and businesses ended in November, but business owners can apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) through Monday.

Economic injury loans up to \$1,500,000 are available from the SBA to assist small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives who cannot provide for their own recovery from non-government sources. The interest rate on the loans is 4 percent, with a maximum term of 30 years.

To get a loan application, business owners should contact the SBA's Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. or by email at [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). For more information on the Ernesto disaster declaration, go to [http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/basics/recentdisaster/serv\\_nc\\_ernesto.html](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/basics/recentdisaster/serv_nc_ernesto.html).

###